WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A process for managing an information technology (IT) project to develop an information technology (IT) product, comprising the principal steps of:

assessing the feasibility of the project in a first principal step to determine whether to proceed with the project, and generating a first set of deliverables;

5   submitting the first deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a first approval step to determine the viability of the project after the first principal step;

performing initial project analysis in a second principal step to determine the project's functional requirements, and generating a second set of deliverables;

submitting the second set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in 10 a second approval step to determine the viability of the project after the second principal step;

designing the IT product in a third principal step, and generating a third set of deliverables;

submitting the third set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a 15 third approval step to determine the viability of the project after the third principal step;

building the IT product in a fourth principal step, and generating a fourth set of deliverables;

submitting the fourth set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a 20 fourth approval step to determine the viability of the project after the fourth principal step;

testing the IT product in a fifth principal step to determine the viability of the project, and generating a fifth set of deliverables;

submitting the fifth set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a 25 fifth approval step to determine the viability of the project after the fifth principal step;

implementing the IT product in a sixth principal step, and generating a sixth set of deliverables;

submitting the sixth set of deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a 30 sixth principal step to determine the viability of the project after the sixth principal

step; and

terminating the IT project in a seventh principal step, including evaluating the project, and generating a seventh set of deliverables.

2. The process according to claim 1,

5   wherein the first set of deliverable includes one or more of the following deliverables: (a) a feasibility analysis; (b) a high level cost-benefit analysis; (c) a risk analysis; and (d) a cost and schedule estimate for the second principal step,

wherein the second set of deliverables includes one or more of the following deliverables: (a) the charter document; (b) a detailed cost-benefit analysis; (c) a

10   project schedule; (d) a risk analysis matrix; (e) project controls documentation; (f) budget-related documentation; (g) system acceptance criteria; and (h) detailed requirements documentation,

wherein the third set of deliverables includes one or more of the following deliverables: (a) business and technical requirements; (b) system user and interface

15   standards; (c) data model; (d) logical data model; (e) technical specification; (f) test strategy plan and scripts; (g) conversion plan; (h) retirement plan; (i) detailed training plan; (j) system transition plan; (k) updated cost benefit analysis and project schedule; and (l) IT product prototype,

wherein the fourth set of deliverables includes one or more of the following

20   deliverables: (a) the IT product; (b) monitoring procedures; (c) code package; (d) test results; (e) configuration management; (f) installation / back-out documentation and procedures; (g) training material; (h) systems manuals; (i) disaster recovery plan; (j) deployment documentation; (k) rollout and implementation plans; and (l) test scripts,

wherein the fifth set of deliverables includes one or more of the following

25   deliverables: (a) test results; (b) disaster recovery procedures; (c) support scripts and manuals; (d) warranty; (e) on-call procedures; (f) maintenance manuals; (g) help desk scripts; and (h) and disaster recovery procedures,

wherein the sixth set of deliverables includes one or more of the following deliverables: (a) escalation procedures pertaining to a hierarchical sequence of steps

30   that may be used by the "recipients" of the IT product to demand that changes be made to the IT product; (b) on-call procedures; (c) solution metrics; (d) project

evaluation documentation; and (e) a support defects log, and

wherein the seventh set of deliverables includes one or more of the following deliverables: (a) explanation/documentation of variation of planned product to actual realized product; (b) best practices sharing; (c) process improvement opportunities; (d) relevant project documentation; and (e) a benefits monitoring plan.

3. The process according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the principal steps includes plural substeps.

4. The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of accessing and utilizing at least one tool to provide assistance in performing the project.

5. The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting information regarding the status of the project, including an indication of the level of completion of each of principal step.

6. A method for managing an information technology (IT) project to develop an information technology (IT) product, comprising the steps of:

providing information regarding a structured process for developing the IT product, the information including:

i) first data regarding principal steps of the structured process;

ii) second data regarding substeps included in each principal step, wherein each principal step includes at least one substep; and

iii) third data regarding approval procedures performed during the process for validating the viability of the project;

accessing the information; and

performing the principal steps, substeps, and approval procedures specified in the accessed information.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of performing comprises performing the following principal steps interspersed with the following approval steps:

assessing the feasibility of the project in a first principal step to determine whether to proceed with the project, and generating a first set of deliverables;

submitting the first deliverables to one or more authorizing agents in a first